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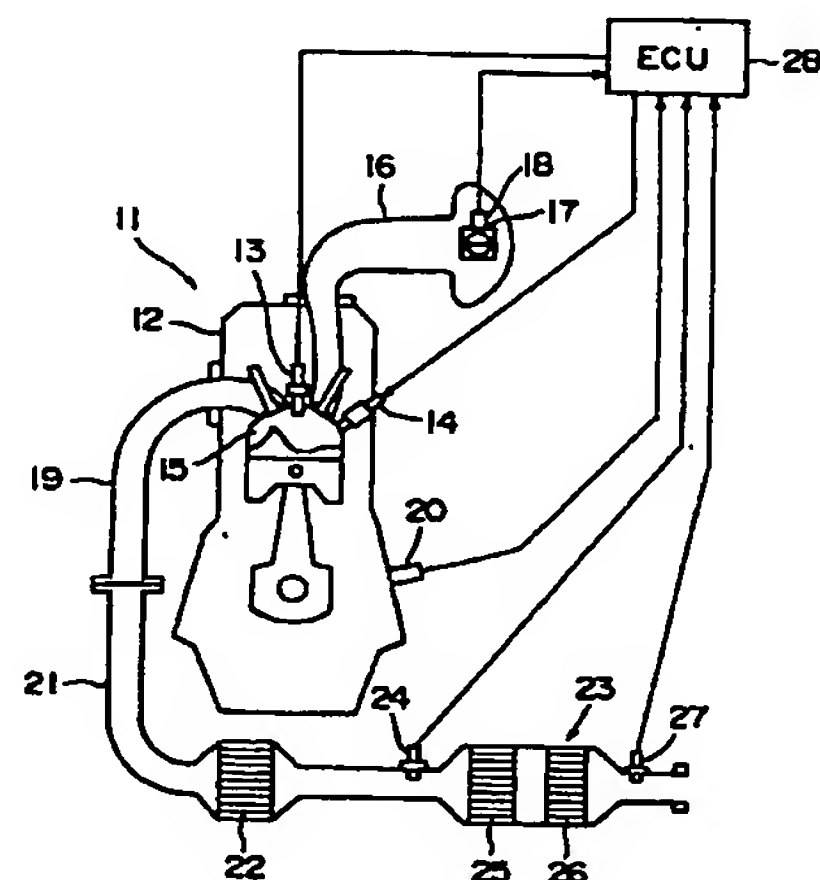
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(54) **EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROL DEVICE OF INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES**

(57) An NO<sub>x</sub> sensor 27 detects the concentration of NO<sub>x</sub> released from an occlusion type NO<sub>x</sub> catalyst 25 into the atmosphere. Based on the output of the NO<sub>x</sub> sensor 27, a total NO<sub>x</sub> discharge A is computed. When the total NO<sub>x</sub> discharge A reaches an NO<sub>x</sub> emission judgment amount A<sub>0</sub>, corresponding to an NO<sub>x</sub> emission judgment amount designated by NO<sub>x</sub> emission regulations, before a distance traveled C reaches a predetermined distance traveled C<sub>0</sub>, an exhaust air-fuel ratio is changed to a rich air-fuel ratio to release NO<sub>x</sub> from the occlusion type NO<sub>x</sub> catalyst 25 efficiently. Then, the exhaust air-fuel ratio is changed to a stoichiometric air-fuel ratio to purify and reduce NO<sub>x</sub> by a three-way catalyst function.

**FIG. 1**



EP 1 087 119 A1